

46963 to 46967—Continued.

A subshrubby morning-glory with a branched stem, 4 to 10 feet in height. The bell-shaped purplish to pinkish corollas are about 3 inches long. (Adapted from *Bailey, Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture, vol. 3, p. 1659.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 37917.

For an illustration of this morning-glory in full bloom, see Plate II.

46967. *MIMOSA* sp. Mimosaceæ.

Curran No. 260.

46968. *ABELMOSCHUS ESCULENTUS* (L.) Moench. Malvaceæ. **Okra.**
(*Hibiscus esculentus* L.)

From Avery Island, La. Presented by Mr. E. A. McIlhenny. Received January 6, 1919.

Seeds secured for cultural and other experiments in the investigation of okra seed as a possible commercial source of oil.

46969. *ARGANIA SPINOSA* (L.) Skeels. Sapotaceæ. **Argan tree.**
(*A. sideroxylon* Roem. and Schult.)

From Algiers, Algeria. Presented by Dr. T. H. Kearney, United States Department of Agriculture. Received January 7, 1919.

"Seeds collected from an argan tree growing in the garden of the School of Medicine at Algiers." (*Kearney*.)

The argan tree is in many respects the most remarkable plant of southern Morocco; and it attracts the more attention as it is the only tree that commonly attains a large size and forms a conspicuous feature of the landscape in the low country near the coast. In structure and properties it is nearly allied to the tropical genus *Sideroxylon* (ironwood); but there is enough of general resemblance, both in its mode of growth and its economic uses, to the familiar olive tree of the Mediterranean region to make it the local representative of that plant. Its home is the sublittoral zone of southwestern Morocco, where it is common between the rivers Tensift and Sous. A few scattered trees only are said to be found north of the Tensift; but it seems to be not infrequent in the hilly district between the Sous and the river of Oued Noun, making the total length of its area about 200 miles. Extending from near the coast for a distance of 30 or 40 miles inland, it is absolutely unknown elsewhere in the world. The trunk always divides at a height of 8 or 10 feet from the ground and sends out numerous spreading, nearly horizontal branches. The growth is apparently very slow, and the trees that attain a girth of 12 to 15 feet are probably of great antiquity. The minor branches and young shoots are beset with stiff, thick spines, and the leaves are like those of the olive in shape, but of a fuller green, somewhat paler on the under side. Unlike the olive, the wood is of extreme hardness, and seemingly indestructible by insects, as we saw no example of a hollow trunk. The fruit, much like a large olive in appearance, but varying much in size and shape, is greedily devoured by goats, sheep, camels, and cows, but refused by horses and mules; its hard kernel furnishes the oil which replaces that of the olive in the cookery of southern Morocco and is unpleasant to the unaccustomed palate of Europeans. (Adapted from *Hooker and Ball, A Tour in Morocco, p. 96.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 3490.